(f) what are the measures taken or proposed to be taken to guard these canals in Punjab against recurrence of such happenings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI HARI NATH MISHRA): (a) and (b), (d) and (e) The Government of Punjab have reported that:

(i) Bhakra Main Line which supplies water to the States of Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan and the Union Territories of Delhi and Chandigarh, breached twice on 6th June 1984 and 21st July, 1984. The first breach was repaired at the cost of about Rs. 1.5 crores and the water released on 10th July, 1984. The work on the repair of the second-breach is in progress and is likely to cost about Rs. 2.0 crores.

(ii) The Bikaner Canal which supplies water to Rajasthan breached on 18-6-1984. This was plugged within 24 hours at an expenditure of about Rs. 53 thousands.

(iii) The Bhatinda Branch which supplies water to the areas in Punjab was breached on 1st August 1984 and was plugged on the same day. The cost of repairs has not been reported.

(c) and (f) The causes of these breaches are reported to be under investigation. The Govrnment of Punjab have reported that static guard pickets have been posted at all vulnerable points along all Major Canals and patrolling of Canal banks has been intensified.

Use of Banned Drugs

2657. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to Government's notice that spoilt and banned drugs are being administered to patients at the World University Service Health Centre in Delhi University;

(b) whether it is a fact that some expired drugs were administered to the patients there last year also; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (MISS KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI): (a) Yes.

(b) No

(c) Does not arise.

Passenger traffic

2658. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passenger traffic on the Railways registered a negative growth of 1.3 per cent during 1982-83;

(b) if so, what was the position of the passenger traffic on the Railways during 1983-84;

(c) what were the main reasons for the negative growth;

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to overcome this trend; and

(e) to wheat extent the measures taken have improved the position so far during the year 1984-85?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The estimated decline in the passenger traffic during 1983-84 is about 7.7 per cent as compared to the previous year.

(c) to (e) The decline is largely in short distance passenger traffic which is mainly attributable to the increase in the fares of short-distance travel which was the desired trend expected at the time of raising the fares based on the recommendation of the Rail Tariff Enquiry Committee. However, a slight upward trend in passenger traffic could be expected during the ensuing busy season from October, 1984 to March, 1985.